REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant hereby submits this preliminary amendment, and requests that the amendments presented herein be entered before the Examiner's initial review of this application. Specifically, Applicant has amended paragraph [0001] of page 1 and paragraph [0078] beginning on page 29 of the specification to include the Application Serial Numbers for the concurrently filed U.S. Patent Applications entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DEFINING MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR MANAGING NETWORK ELEMENTS," and "USER-FRIENDLY SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DEFINING POLICIES FOR MANAGING NETWORK ELEMENTS." Applicant has also amended Paragraph [0001] to delete reference to "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING DISTRIBUTED FAULT MANAGEMENT POLICIES IN A NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.'

No new matter has been added by the amendments presented herein.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: September 18, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By_____
Jody C. Bishop
   Registration No.: 44,034
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
2200 Ross Avenue
Suite 2800
Dallas, Texas 75201
(214) 855-8007
(214) 855-8200 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In The Specification

[0001]   This application is related to co-pending application entitled "FAULT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD," assigned serial number 09/345,634, filed June 30, 1999; co-pending application entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR POLICY-BASED NETWORK MANAGEMENT," assigned serial number 09/469,025, filed December 21, 1999; co-pending application entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING A COMMUNICATION NETWORK UTILIZING STATE-BASED POLLING," assigned serial number 09/770,427, filed January 26, 2001; and co-pending application entitled "OBJECT-DRIVEN NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ENABLING DYNAMICALLY DEFINABLE MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR," assigned serial number 09/816,693, filed March 22, 02001, all of which are assigned to a common assignee and the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference. This [is]application is also related to concurrently filed application entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DEFINING MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR MANAGING NETWORK ELEMENTS," assigned serial number [[Attorney Docket Number 10010453-1];] 09/945,372, and concurrently filed application entitled "USER-FRIENDLY SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DEFINING POLICIES FOR MANAGING NETWORK ELEMENTS," assigned serial number [[Attorney Docket Number 10010452-1]] 09/945,112; [and concurrently filed application entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING DISTRIBUTED FAULT MANAGEMENT POLICIES IN A NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM," assigned serial number [Attorney Docket Number 10010463-1]], all of which are assigned to a common assignee and the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0078]   Policy object 501 also includes a user-defined process list 504 as an attribute of such policy object. The user may specify in such policy list attribute the management tasks (or behaviors) that are to be performed upon invocation of the policy defined by object 501. The exemplary process list included in attribute 504 of policy object 501 corresponds to policy 404 of Fig. 4. Thus, policy object 501 of Fig. 5 may define policy 404 of Fig. 4. As

described above, the user may specify the process flow of such policy. For instance, the process flow of a policy may be specified by the arrangement of management tasks (e.g., other policies) in the process list attribute 504. Additionally, in certain embodiments the user may utilize certain process flow control tools (such as "Go to" and/or "Loop" commands) in the process list 504 to further control the operational flow of the policy defined by policy object 501. Examples of defining a policy using a policy builder program in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention are further described in concurrently filed application entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DEFINING MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR MANAGING NETWORK ELEMENTS," assigned serial number [[Attorney Docket Number 10010453-1]] 09/945,372 and concurrently filed application entitled "USER-FRIENDLY SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DEFINING POLICIES FOR MANAGING NETWORK ELEMENTS," assigned serial number [[Attorney Docket Number 10010452-1]] 09/945,112, the disclosures of which have been incorporated herein by reference. For instance, as described in concurrently filed application entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DEFINING MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR MANAGING NETWORK ELEMENTS," the policy builder program may present a user-interface with which the user may interact to select predefined tools (e.g., policy templates) to be included in the process list, and the user may further control the arrangement of such predefined tools in the process list to control the process flow of the policy.